ERIC Document Resume	See Instruction Sheet	DATE OF RESUME	DATE RECEIVED

A. PUBLICATION DATA

1. ERIC NUMBER	2. ORIGINATOR CONTROL NO(S).	3. IDENTIFICATION NO.
ED002671	N.A.	N.A.

4. AUTHOR(S): N.A.

5. TITLE OF DOCUMENT ABSTRACTED: North Carolina Advancement School

6. PUBLICATION TITLE: N.A.

7. EDITOR(S): N.A.

8. PLACE OF ORIGIN
ORG. North Carolina Advancement School
ST. CITY, STATE Winston-Salem, N.C.
TELE. INST/LOC CODE EXT.

9. PUBLISHER OR SOURCE North Carolina Advancement School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

10. VOL.	11. PAGES	12. MO./YR.	13. TOTAL PP.
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	11

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TYPE OF REPORT
PROPOSAL ☐
IN-PROGRESS ☐
FINAL ☐
FOLLOW-UP ☐

OTHER ERIC REFERENCES:

ERIC SATELLITE CODE

B. INDEXING DATA

14. SUBJECT AREA

15. TYPE OF ENDEAVOR Report

16. INDEXING TERMS (6-12)

counseling	finances	underachievers	
secondary education	faculty	administration	
special education	teacher education	housing	
remedial education	inservice education	extracurricular activities	

17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

The North Carolina Advancement School, a residential school for underachieving eighth grade students of average or above average potential, tries to correct educational deficiencies and to equip students with skills and attitudes needed to appraise themselves and to judge their chances for future schooling and occupational success. Another aim is to discover, use, and evaluate new teaching methods that can be adapted for use in regular classrooms.

Financial support is provided by the Carnegie Corporation, the U.S. Office of Education, and the Board of Education of the State of North Carolina. The schedule consists of four eleven-week sessions per year. Students are nominated by their principals and/or superintendents. In each quarter there are 350 students and 50 teachers. Room, board, and tuition for students and room and board for teachers are free.

Emphasis in the curriculum is on reading, writing, speaking, arithmetic, and study skills, but the standard eighth grade subjects are also taught. Staff work is supplemented by a tutorial program conducted by volunteer area college students. Classes range from large lectures to individual tutoring sessions. A full program of recreation and extracurricular activities is provided.

There is a permanent staff of thirty professionals, assisted by the fifty participating teachers in residence who are selected from the same schools as the students. Liaison between the advancement school and the sending schools is provided by the inservice education teachers.

Followup activities are specially designed counseling programs in the home schools and such publicity efforts as newsletters.

ERIC No.

18. SOURCE OF ABSTRACT

C. FUNDING DATA

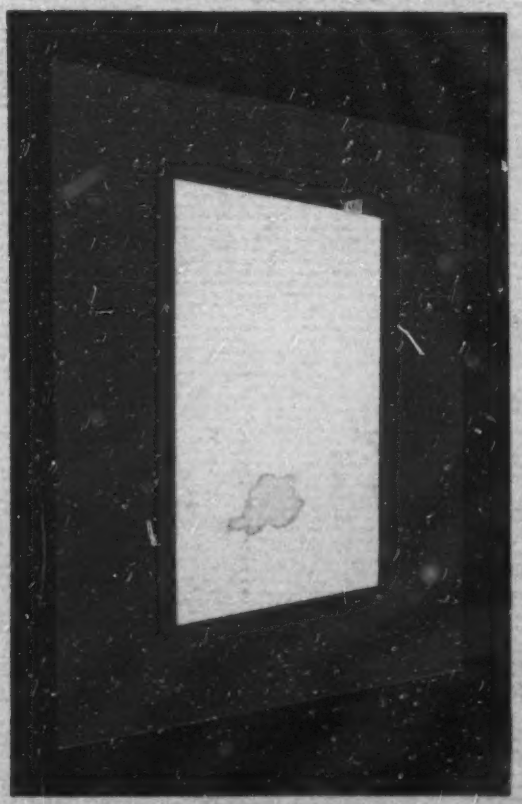
19. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION	20. DIVISION OR DEPT.	21. CONTRACT NO. / PROJECT NO.
	22. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	
	23. DURATION OF PROJECT	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education

ERIC Form 1

NYS Ed Depart

ED002671

North Carolina Advancement School



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Inquiries about the School should be addressed to the Director:

DR. GORDON L. MCANDREW
NORTH CAROLINA ADVANCEMENT SCHOOL
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA 27101
(PHONE: AREA CODE 919, 723-2986)

THE ADVANCEMENT SCHOOL

The North Carolina Advancement School is a residential school designed to help eighth grade students of good potential but poor achievement. The School seeks to remedy educational deficiencies and to equip its students with the skills and attitudes they need for success in school and adult life.

The Advancement School uses both experimental and established methods and materials. One of its most important goals is the devising and evaluation of new ways of teaching and learning, which can be adapted for use in the regular public school classrooms of the State, in order that all of the children of North Carolina might benefit.

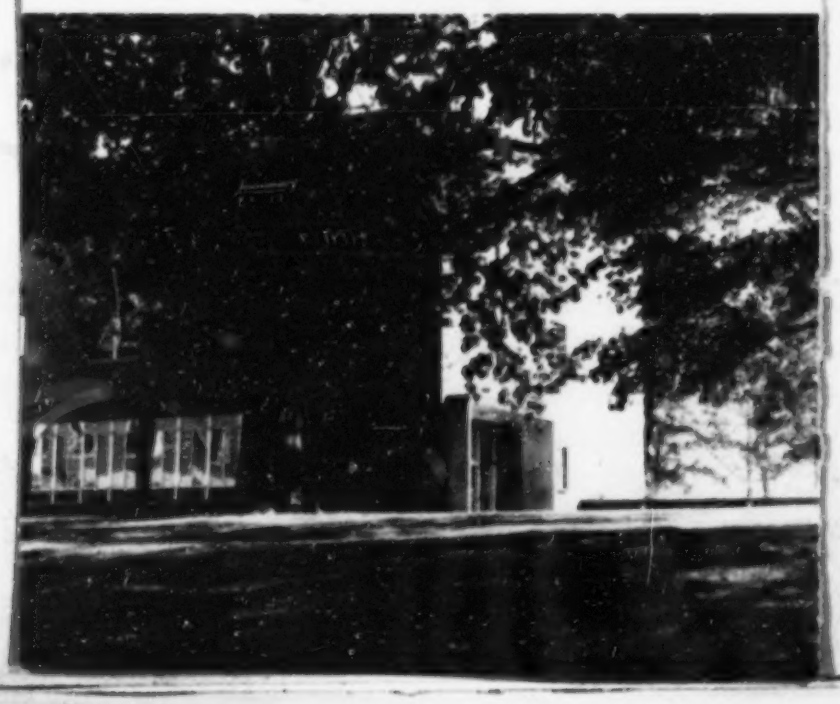
Governor Terry Sanford at School Dedication Ceremony, November 8, 1964

Another unique aspect of the Advancement School is its program of in-service education for teachers, designed to give selected groups of classroom teachers working knowledge of new approaches and techniques and a greater understanding of student problems and motivation.

Students and teachers come to the Advancement School campus from public and private schools throughout the State. Students are not charged for room, board or tuition. Funds are available to provide clothing and necessities, such as glasses, for children who could not otherwise afford them.

The School operates on a schedule of four eleven-week sessions each year. For each quarter, approximately 350 students and 50 teachers are brought to the School. The program is closely coordinated with that of the public school system to insure the students' and teachers' rapid readjustment after their three-month absence.

Main Entrance



The Advancement School operates on funds from the Carnegie Corporation, the United States Office of Education, and the Board of Education of the State of North Carolina. It is a project of the Learning Institute of North Carolina, a non-profit agency dedicated to basic educational research and to the improvement of the schools of North Carolina.

THE SCHOOL

The Advancement School is located in the City of Winston-Salem, on its own ten-acre campus. The buildings have recently been extensively remodeled, and both buildings and grounds provide ample space for the residential, instructional and recreational needs of the students, participating teachers and staff.

Winston-Salem, the second largest city in the State, is an educational and commercial center of the southeast, and its many civic and cultural programs make it an excellent location for the Advancement School campus.

THE STUDENTS

The program of the Advancement School is designed for eighth grade boys and girls of average or above-average potential who, for one reason or another, are below grade-level in basic skills — reading, writing and arithmetic. These are students of promise, whose intelligence well qualifies them for success in high school, college and later life, but whose academic achievement up to this point does not.

Principals and/or superintendents nominate students for the School. Nominations are based

Learning Laboratory

on test scores, on school records, and on teacher evaluation. In addition, each student must be in sound emotional and physical health and must want to take part in the Advancement School program.

THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the Advancement School places emphasis on intensive instruction in reading, writing, speaking, arithmetic, and study skills. In addition, attention is given to the standard eighth grade subjects — American History and Geography, Geology, Music, Literature, Health and Physical Education, and Art. A tutorial program, using volunteer college students in the area, supplements the work of the professional staff.

The School also helps the student judge what he can become and achieve. He is assisted in making an appraisal of his individual

test scores and his progress at school, and a related appraisal of the world outside, his chances for future schooling and occupational possibilities.

Classes at the Advancement School range in size from large lectures to individual tutoring sessions. New instructional methods and materials, such as multi-medial learning laboratories and instruction, are used extensively. Heavy emphasis in these aspects of the program is on the development, testing and evaluation of such aids, with the goal of making the most successful of them available to all of the schools of North Carolina.

THE STAFF

The principal responsibility for the classroom program at the Advancement School rests with a permanent staff of thirty professionals, fully qualified for their tasks by training, experience, and demonstrated excellence. They are assisted by the fifty participating teachers brought to the School each quarter.

Tutoring Session

THE IN-SERVICE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The fifty classroom teachers brought to the Advancement School each session are selected from the same schools as the students. Funds for providing substitutes for these teachers are made available by the Advancement School.

In-service education teachers continue to receive their regular salaries and are provided with free on-campus room and board.

The in-service education program is designed to be a unique and valuable learning experience. The teachers assist in the instructional program in which they themselves are becoming familiar with and helping to evaluate new methods and materials. They take part in classroom demonstrations, in discussion groups, in seminars which bring in outside authorities in the various areas under discussion. The program is an informal and flexible one, designed to help the teacher learn by active participation rather than by passive attendance at lectures.

The in-service education teachers act as liaison between the Advancement School and the sending schools. It is through them that the most important discoveries of the Advancement School are made available to all the children and teachers of the State.

RECREATION AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

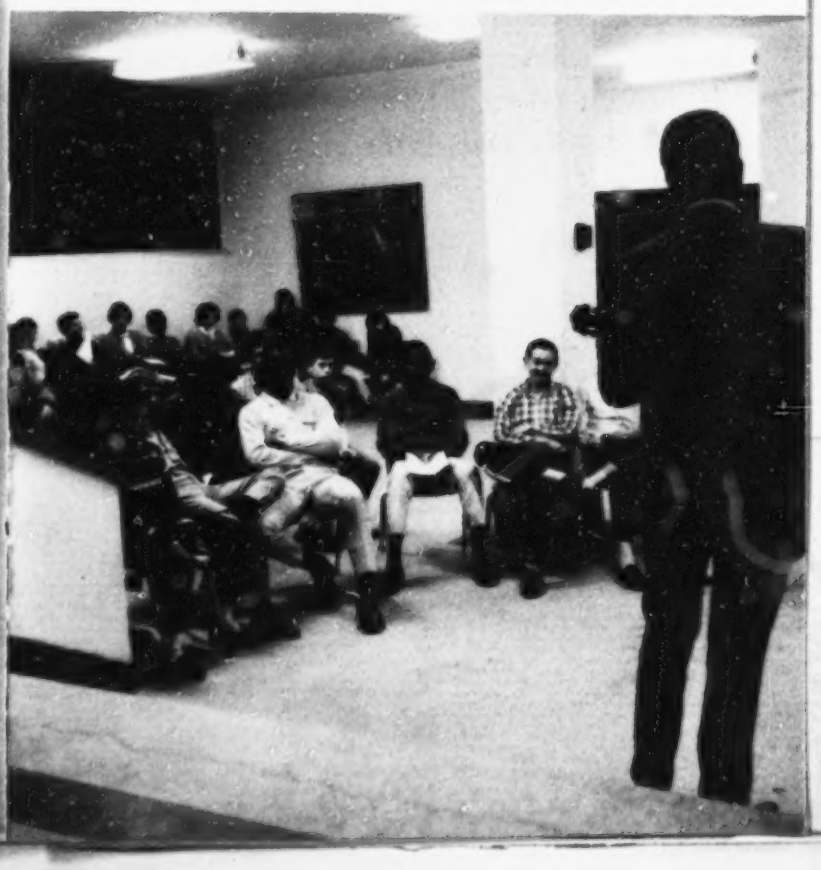
The Advancement School has a complete program of physical education, recreation, and health activities. Facilities are available, either

in the school or in nearby community centers, for a wide variety of indoor and outdoor sports and games.

A varied program of other extra-curricular activities is planned each session. Groups of students are taken to museums and cultural events, to visit nearby industries, and to hear interesting speakers on a wide range of topics. Every effort is made to broaden the students' knowledge of the world, and to increase their awareness of the opportunities open to them.

In addition to such planned programs, the School itself provides facilities for many different leisure-time activities, both for individuals and groups. Students are encouraged to develop their musical, dramatic and artistic abilities, and are provided with the necessary equipment and time to do so.

Classical Guitarist At School Concert



AFTER THE ADVANCEMENT SCHOOL...

The Advancement School experience does not end with the three-month session. Specially designed counseling programs encourage the students' continuing achievement in their home schools, and the School demonstrates its interest in its past students through regular newsletters and other means. The Advancement School is considered to be a first step for its students, and every effort is made to help them to continue taking the steps leading to happy and productive adult lives.

THE LEARNING INSTITUTE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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